



EL HEMISFERICO

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Informing the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation Community Winter 2006, 12th Edition



WHINSEC updates Board of Visitors on 2005 developments



Photo by Jo Kennedy

Newly-elected Chairman of WHINSEC's Board of Visitors, Ambassador José Sorzano (center) addresses fellow panel members, including Representative Phil Gingrey's designee Rob Herriott (left), Lt. Gen. Anthony Jones, Deputy Commander of TRADOC, and Gen. Bantz Craddock, Commander of SOUTHCOM.

By Jo Kennedy
ELH Staff Writer

Known as the Board of Visitors (BOV), the WHINSEC's federal oversight committee has filed its 2005 report of recommendations to inform the Secretary of Defense on areas such as curriculum, academic instruction, and fiscal affairs of the Institute during the past year.

Created along with the Institute under the 2001 Defense Authorization Bill, the 13-member panel comprises representatives from the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, the State Department, the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, U. S. Southern Command, and six members designated by the Secretary of Defense, representing human rights, religious, academic and business communities.

During the latest meeting, which was held Dec. 1-2 at the Institute, the BOV panel members passed several recommendations based on briefings by officials from WHINSEC and U.S. Southern and Northern Commands.

WHINSEC Commandant Col. Gilberto Pérez updated the panel mem-

bers on key issues and developments at the Institute from the previous year.

One area of improvement that was highlighted concerned the WHINSEC's transformation of its traditional year-long Command and General Staff Officer Course (CGSOC) to the new Intermediate Level Education (ILE) Course, a shift that correlates with academic changes occurring in the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's professional military education of officers.

The CGSOC is accredited by the Department of the Army as an equivalent to the Fort Leavenworth, Kan. course for future U.S. senior leaders. The WHINSEC course differs partly by bringing together officers and civilian officials from the U.S. and other Western Hemisphere nations to be trained and educated using a multinational and integrated approach.

"These Soldiers will be trained to make the right decision on the battle field – not just tactically and technically – but ethically and morally as well," said Pérez.

See Board of Visitor page 6

WHINSEC'S CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

6~ HHC EST Training
17-20~ Training Holiday
23-24~ CGSOC National Military Strategy Speaker
24~ EOM Ceremony

MARCH

10~ HHC Land Nav Training
16~ Hot weather Training
17~ Training Holiday
31~ Hail and Farewell
31~ ASAP Training

APRIL

3-7~ Spring Cleanup
5~ CMS-10 graduation
14~ Training Holiday
14~ CMS-5 graduation
26~ CMS-6 graduation

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WHINSEC

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Commandant's Corner



With the new year, WHINSEC faces new challenges and opportunities. At the same time, we need to ponder the successes and lessons of last year. 2005 gave us the last "Legacy" Command & General Staff Officer Course, and a commitment both here and from our higher headquarters to be prepared to offer Intermediate Level Education Core Course and Advanced Warfighter Operations Course with the 2006 class. An unbelievable amount of work has been accomplished already, and, as we head into the homestretch, I know that Lt. Col. Tom Yanoschik and his team will get us there. I must also credit the contractors and the translators on this team. I can never say enough about Mr. Walt Santamaria and how the Translation Division makes all our courses possible with their translations, their interpretations, and their dubbing of training films.

We had two big events at the end of last year which put the Institute in a great light. First, the nearly 500 protesters who came in to see us and talk with us went away with a new understanding. A survey we conducted of their experience here will help us make the 2006 Open House even more effective.

The most important event of the Fall was the Dec 1-2 meeting of our Board of Visitors. More than half of the people sitting on that panel were new to the Institute, including five of the Secretary of Defense's civilian appointees. They all seemed appreciative of what we do, and willing to help us improve our contributions to the hemisphere. Look for more attention from the board this year, as the new members get acquainted with us.

One record that I am most proud of is the work all of us have done to keep us free of recordable accidents for more than three years, and we are still counting! That is a tribute to everyone here for driving defensively, maintaining your vehicles, being safety conscious at home and at work, and looking out for each other. Mr. Eric Heberlig may be the best safety officer in TRADOC, but neither he nor I can make this kind of record happen—it takes everyone. My concern is that we all need to stay on our toes when it comes to safety. Just one moment of inattention or carelessness could end this streak; more importantly, that moment could mean a lot of pain and suffering for one of us or for a family member. Never get complacent about safety; it is a 24-7 duty for each of us.

I thank everyone who made our Christmas Ball a great success. Each time we have an event downtown, I'm reminded not only of our own great people, but of what a great community is all around us here, supporting us. As you come in contact with sponsors, government officials, and other local citizens, thank them for the wonderful support we enjoy.

As this "El Hemisferico" comes out, there is much to celebrate and look forward to, including our fifth anniversary, the arrival of WHINSEC's new Deputy Commandant Col. Andrés Polloni and Command Sgt. Major Jaime Antonio Urrutia, the presentation of our Simón Bolívar lecturer, and the completion of several of our shorter courses. All these events represent our good work and dedication, and I count on each of you to attend every ceremony, not just to honor the presenters or the students, but ourselves as well. We all contribute to the success of the Institute.

Col. Gilberto R. Pérez, WHINSEC Commandant

Opinion



WHINSEC Safety Officer Eric Heberlig recently accepted the Fort Benning Safety Award on behalf of the Institute at the Fort Benning Command General's Breakfast Ceremony, 3 Feb.

WHINSEC recently received Fort Benning recognition for zero serious accidents during Fiscal Year 2005.

This was the Institute's second consecutive year without a recordable accident. As a matter of fact, we have not had a serious incident since 30 September 2002.

However, the operation of privately owned vehicles (POV) during off-duty time remains our biggest threat. We had thirteen POV accidents in FY 2005. In two cases, we had personnel or family members injured or roughed-up because they were not wearing seatbelts!

WHINSEC was off to a great start in FY 2006. However, in January, we experienced too many "near misses". I am concerned that we may have lost our safety edge during the holidays.

Consequently, I remind everyone that safety, both on and off duty, must remain paramount. The operation of a POV must be considered a hazardous operation! In addition, plan enough time to get your work done without rushing through the building.

Finally, we will begin field training events soon. Remember to brief the risk management worksheets to students and cadre alike. We must adhere to standards.

Let's strive for another year without a serious accident!

Mr. Eric Heberlig, WHINSEC Safety Officer

CURRENT & UPCOMING COURSES

Command General and Staff Officer Course (CGSOC) Jun. 20, 2005 - May 24, 2006: To prepare officers and civilian officials of all services for duty as field-grade commanders and as principal staff officers in their armed forces.

Intelligence Officer Course (TAC-2) Jan. 16 - Mar. 21: To train selected military officers to perform the duties of a tactical-intelligence staff officer in conventional military operations and in military operations other than war (MOOTW).

Captain Career Course (OPME-3) Jan. 30 - Jun. 7: To train combined-arms company commanders and battalion-level staff officers, who receive foundation-building instruction in the fundamentals of leadership, communications, land navigation, and military law.

Counterdrug Operations (TAC-6) Feb. 1 - May 4: To provide selected military and police officers and noncommissioned officers at the operator level with specialized training in the development of battalion-level staff and small-unit leadership skills in the areas of planning, leading, and executing counterdrug operations.

Information Operations Course (CMS-10) Feb. 6 - Apr. 13: To educate mid- to senior-level military officers and civilian government officials in information operations (IO). The course teaches approved U.S. Army IO doctrine and Joint IO policy guidance.

Peace Operation (CMS-6) Mar. 6 - Apr. 26 To train military and civilian personnel in United Nations (UN) peace-operation techniques and procedures (TP). This course will familiarize students with UN doctrine for peace operations.

Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development (NPME-8) Mar. 9 - May 2: To train selected noncommissioned officers to lead, train, and direct subordinates at the squad and platoon level. This course develops leadership skills required by NCOs who will serve as squad leaders or platoon sergeants.

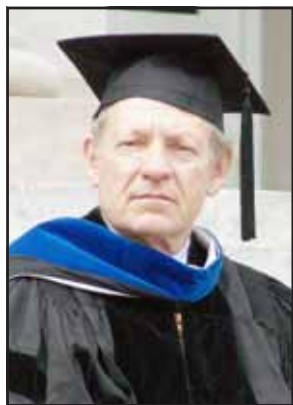
Instructor Training Course (DEV-2) Mar. 20 - Apr. 5: To provide students with the theory and practice of concepts, methods, techniques, and technology of performance-oriented training. The course consists of performance-oriented training on how to prepare for and present classroom instruction.

Engineer Operations Course (TAC-8) Mar. 20 - Jun. 1: To train engineers or other combined-arms officers and noncommissioned officers to use conventional and improvised demolitions, mobility, countermobility, survivability, and assault techniques in conventional and counterdrug environments.

Human Rights Course (CMS-5) Mar. 27 - Apr. 14: To present a number of techniques for effective teaching and integration of human rights within military and security-force training. The students will be taught to implement the concepts and methodology of human-rights training in battalion-sized units within their own country.

WHINSEC's faculty training program takes on new dimensions

DEAN'S NOTES
A COMMENTARY
ON SCHOLASTIC HAPPENINGS



by Dr. Donald Harrington
WHINSEC's Dean of Academics
ELH Contribution

WHINSEC has exciting changes underway in the area of faculty development. Some of these changes are specifically designed for the teaching of the new Command and General Staff Officers Course—the new version is called Intermediate Level Education (ILE)—while others are part of our ongoing process of faculty development.

As most of you know, WHINSEC has stressed the training of faculty, as well as students, for many years. All teaching personnel assigned to the Institute must, before appearing on the platform, attend and pass the 13-day Instructor Training Course (ITC). This course, mandated by the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) of the U.S. Army, teaches instructors how to prepare and develop lessons, motivate and test students and deliver effective instruction.

Once the faculty member has successfully completed ITC, he or she undergoes further preparation with experienced instructors in their division in the subject matter to be taught. Finally, the faculty member team teaches the material in a class before going solo.

After completing ITC, many instructors also take the five-day Small Group Instructor Training Course (SGITC) to learn how to facilitate learning by students in small groups.

Both of these courses are taught by the Institute's Staff and Faculty Development Division (SFDD) under the very capable leadership of Cheryl Buttler. Now, as the Institute prepares to teach the Intermediate Level Education (ILE) course beginning in June 2006, the development of the faculty has taken on new dimensions.

Teaching in the ILE course will be conducted by teams which will continue with the same small group of students throughout the year. These teams will be headed by soon-to-be hired instructors who are specialists in their areas (tactics, strategy, logistics and history and leadership).

These new specialists, along with all instructors in the ITC course, will have to undergo instructor training at Fort Leavenworth (or at WHINSEC, but taught by a Leavenworth Mobile Training Team). They will begin with a one-week course called Faculty Development Program 1 (FDP 1), which is similar to the Institute's SGITC but with additional focus on the role of the faculty member as a facilitator of experiential learning rather than as an instructional expert. While U.S. instructors will be taking the FDP program in English through Leavenworth, guest instructors will continue with a soon-to-be-updated ITC and SGITC in Spanish at the Institute.

These courses will be followed by internal departmental preparation and rehearsal time to prepare them to teach ILE (FDP 2). At a future time, these new specialists and instructors will take FDP 3 to

help develop their skills as writers and designers of lessons. There will also be an increased emphasis on academic work beyond the classroom, such as participation in conferences, publication of articles and additional academic study (FDP 4).

As only one example of the latter, three current WHINSEC staff members are partway through doctoral programs in adult education. Their studies are already paying dividends for the Institute in the form of new ideas and methods of instruction.

The coming

together of all these different currents of thought and experience concerning instructional methods and subject matter expertise, while originally aimed at the new ILE course, will inevitably filter into the other courses at WHINSEC. The result will be better adult education for all students and a stronger academic environment for the Institute.



Photo by Jo Kennedy

While U.S. instructors will be taking the FDP program in English through Leavenworth, guest instructors will continue with a soon-to-be-updated Instructor Training Course (ITC) and Small Group Instructor Training Course (SGITC) in Spanish at the Institute. Chief of Staff and Faculty Development Division Cheryl Buttler (center) assists two foreign guest officials with English language training.

New guest command team arrives



Deputy Commandant Col. Andrés Polloni

Col. Andrés Polloni, who serves in the Chilean Army, was born on Jan. 10, 1957 in Santiago, Chile. He graduated from the Military Academy in 1975 as a Second Lt. in Telecommunications.

Polloni assumed the position of Deputy Commandant of the WHINSEC on Jan. 13, 2006.

During his previous assignment, he served as the Director of the Education Department II at the Educational Headquarters of the Academic Institutions and Doctrine Command (CIDOC).

Polloni has received numerous awards and decorations, such as the Distinguished Service Medal, the "Military Meritorious Service Star" for 30 years of service in the Armed Forces, the

"Mission Accomplished" Medal, the "Minerva" Medal for qualifying as a staff officer, the "Titularis Profesor" Medal for his performance as a professor at the Army War College, the "Military Academy Service Medal," and the "Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Medal." His other recognitions include the Military Airborne Badge, the "Military English Interpreter Medal," the "Electronic Warfare Specialist Badge," the "Regimental Command Badge," the "Military Instructor's Badge," and the Graduate Insignia from the United States Army War College.

Polloni is married to Ilma Prado Vidal, and they have two daughters, Francisca and Constanza.

Command Sgt. Major Jaime Antonio Urrutia Ibanez

Sgt. Major Jaime Antonio Urrutia Ibanez, from the Chilean Army, was born on March 18, 1955 in the city of Linares, Seventh Region, Republic of Chile.

He fulfilled his compulsory military service in a Mountain Unit at the Linares Artillery Academy. In 1974, he enrolled at the Non-commissioned Officers Academy, graduating on Jan. 1, 1975 as an artillery instructor and in the rank of Private First Class. His first assignment was in the city of Valdivia, X Region. During his military career, he has served in Artillery Units from the Army Aviation Brigade and III Army Division Headquarters, ultimately achiev-

ing his present rank in January 2004.

Urrutia assumed the post of Guest Command Sergeant Major for the WHINSEC on Jan. 18, 2006. His previous assignment was as Adjutant General, III Army Division Headquarters.

His awards and decorations include the "Mission Accomplished Medal" for distinguished service to the Chilean Government; the "Grand Military Merit" Medal for completion of 30 years of service in the Armed Forces; and the Artillery Instructor and Fire Control badges.

Urrutia is married to Emilia Mansilla Vásquez. They have two children, Jaime Antonio and Soledad.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Community leader votes to change WHINSEC's name

I am Dr. Jack Tidwell, a cancer specialist who has become intensely interested in WHINSEC. When my wife and I started looking into all the complaints about the School of Americas and WHINSEC, and the evils they were accused of, our first reaction was that nothing could be so evil, nothing that our American families had died for and to which had attached our reputations or our hopes for the future of the world.

Today, however, I want to ... thank those who, for whatever reason, have protested it, for it brought to my attention something especially good, not bad. My eyes have been opened to the wider real world and to my civic duty to support those things that will keep the world safe, as a U.S. and world citizen. ... I had thoughtlessly and selfishly not spent time considering what it took to protect my freedom to practice medicine, or even to walk down the street safely for that matter.

Students at WHINSEC are teaching us as much as they have learned. I have learned how easy it is to become fat and lazy and unappreciative of the efforts required to make freedom happen. I have learned the principle that political, economic, social stability is a pre-requisite for democracy, and thus for liberty. I recognize that WHINSEC is a worthy template for world peace;

it is truly "Operation Neighborhood Watch" for our hemisphere where everyone learns to shoulder the responsibility to prevent war and terrorism at the grassroots level, where we can find and treat the fire or the cancer early.

Thank you, WHINSEC for teaching me about being a good neighbor and for igniting my heart by teaching me that patriotism to my country, my family, and my community only makes me more appreciative of my neighbors. Through an active involvement with people of our neighboring nations I build a respect for their problems and a love and a bond for those who honor me also in their joining to support common noble ideals. I love my neighbor because my neighbor loves what I love: Freedom.

Using my precious freedom, I hereby vote that we do NOT do what the South American drug lords would dearly love to see happen; I vote, I plead, I pray that we keep WHINSEC strong and viable, and even expand upon its responsibility. I support taking this template of peace to a higher level, changing its name one more time. From the WHINSEC to WINSEC. As good neighbors looking for law and order on a terrorized and shrinking planet we all can have a big WIN with WINSEC -- the WORLD Institute for Security Cooperation.

Board of Visitor cont. (from pg 1)

explaining to the BOV members that the CGSOC students arrive at WHINSEC at a milestone in their careers and it is WHINSEC's responsibility to ensure that they leave ready to operate globally as Soldiers and allied leaders.

"This transition to the ILE course results not only in an academic advantage but it becomes a cultural advantage as well for both the students and faculty," said Dr. Charles Risher, a Department of Defense designated Board member.

Perez further stated that the two-year transition effort is reaching a successful conclusion and the WHINSEC ILE pilot course is scheduled to begin in July 2006.

Board members also learned from Pérez how WHINSEC personnel have been developing a voluntary academic evaluation system to determine student satisfaction and develop formal lines of evaluation for data sharing and quality assurance control.

"We want to develop a better method for garnering student feedback at the individual level to assess how well they are applying the training received at WHINSEC," said Pérez.

He believes the survey tool will require at least two years until implementation partly due to the system's Web-based and automated analysis components.

According to Pérez, steps have been taken to garner feedback informally, such as through interviews with former students during trips to Latin American countries and student-instructor correspondence, both of which have proven successful in providing specific examples of how training has benefited the students.

Victor Bonilla, a Department of Defense designated Board member, stated to WHINSEC personnel that these success stories may serve a dual purpose by informing several nongovernmental organizations, which have been historically concerned with the Institute's mission and purpose, of the WHINSEC's positive impact in the region.

"These success stories underscore the essential contribution that WHINSEC graduates make by preserving democratic gains in the region over the last 20 years and helping lay the ground work for meaningful social dialogue and a just civil order under the

increasingly challenging circumstances," said Bonilla.

BOV member and former U.S. Ambassador José Sorzano stated that WHINSEC continues to emphasize Democracy and Human Rights education in all its courses by providing theoretical and practical instruction in and out of the classroom.

"WHINSEC should be better exemplified for recognizing that respect for human rights can not be taught by textbooks alone, but through the integration of practical experience," said Sorzano, who was elected as Chairman of the Board at the conclusion of the two-day meeting.

Sorzano, who accepted the position, stated that it is "critical for WHINSEC to continue its duty."

"I believe that for Latin America to grow out of its tragic history associated with military dictatorships and human rights violations, the first thing the U.S. can do is to further professionalize their armies and as Chairman, I will see to it that WHINSEC continues to help with this responsibility."

The next WHINSEC BOV meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2006 in Washington, D.C. This mid-year meeting is being held at the capital so that more of the interested parties may attend.

2005 success stories

May: Three members of the Paraguayan Counter-Narcotics Police from the Counter-Drug Course led a long-range patrol to the Brazilian border and captured a regional drug-trafficker without a shot being fired. MILGROUP noted "...the profound impact that the WHINSEC TAC-6 course is having in developing these personnel." **June:** 120 Colombian 'Junglas,' trained by WHINSEC in recent years and led by a 2005 Captains Career Course graduate attacked a FARC camp. Four guerrillas were killed, including a Comandante, and numerous weapons were captured without injury to the task force or any damage to equipment. **June:** Paraguayan 'DEA' team forced landing of aircraft transporting drugs, capturing of 414 kgs. of pressed marijuana destined for markets in Uruguay, four persons, one truck, weapons and a Cessna airplane. **October:** "I am organizing a first aid course... to be given to my assistants for when it is not possible for me to be present. I would appreciate your sending me information regarding CPR, injuries, fractures and snakebite, since we have much of this in our jungle." Student, Peru, Medical Assistance Course (TAC -7). Her input and that of other recent graduates is leading the Peruvian National Anti-Drug Division to establish a course very similar to TAC-7. **October:** The Colombian Counter-narcotics Police captured the Chief of Security for the Northern Valley Cartel, who is under indictment in New York and responsible for sending over 500 MT of cocaine to the US since 1990, without a shot fired. Graduates of the Counter-Drug Course participated. **October:** During an operation, WHINSEC students from the Colombian Narcotics Police killed Comandante Danilo, Resistencia Urbana Antonio Narino (RUAN), his second in command, and RUAN's chief bomb maker. CNP suffered no casualties. **November:** A student in the Narco-Terrorist Analyst Course commented in the end-of-course evaluation that he had supervised students from three of our previous Counter-Drug Courses and that they had all demonstrated "a high level of professionalism and morality."



Left: WHINSEC Commandant Col. Gilberto Pérez updates the Board of Visitors, members of the executive secretariat and panel advisors on several key issues and developments from 2005.

Photo by Jo Kennedy

CGSOC meets with human rights NGOs

By Jo Kennedy
ELH Staff Writer

Students from the Command and General Staff Officer Course (CGSOC) faced a different kind of military opponent during the class' annual visit to Washington, D.C last fall – one that before may have been considered a foe, may now be considered a friend.

For the first time in the history of WHINSEC, representatives of several human rights nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the CGSOC class came together to discuss mutual concerns of each others involvement in protecting human rights.

According to CGSOC student Maj. Michael Ripley, it is important that the military and human rights NGOs work more closely together to ensure human rights are internationally respected.

"The issue of protecting human rights is an overarching concept of universal concern that transcends any one nation's impression or implementation of safeguards," said Ripley.

"Because human rights are supposed to be a global issue, military leaders and NGOs have to learn about each others points of view and concerns."

Human Rights Instructor Maj. Antonio Raimondo stated that the discussion was also arranged to promote information sharing on human rights, especially in regards to such issues as laws of enforcement and the role of the military in combating narcotrafficking in Latin American countries.

"These Soldiers, both U.S. and foreign, will eventually become human rights representatives in the future," said Raimondo.

"They will have to address the concerns of these NGOs down the road shshould their military or police operations have to use

force in accordance with human rights laws to complete a mission."

The meeting was further designed to eliminate confusion among the foreign students about NGOs work in human rights. Many in the class had varied opinions about the role of international human rights NGOs because they are more acquainted with politically-focused organizations from their home countries, which are not considered human rights NGOs by international standards, said Raimondo.

"For example, false NGOs in Latin America do not necessarily protect human rights," Raimondo said. "Instead they dramatize incidents and abuse human rights concerns as a political tool to shut down their countries' administration."

The foreign students however were not the only ones to benefit from the eye-opening exchange.

According CGSOC student Maj. David Strauss, Soldiers in the U.S. military rarely have this opportunity during their career to receive intense human rights education comparable to the requirements for the WHINSEC course, which includes an initial month of instruction dedicated to theoretical training.

Practical experience is then integrated into the course during the remaining months of preparation for duty as field-grade commanders and as principal staff officers in the armed forces, he said.

"What other institute in the world brings together military officers from all over to plant ethical seeds and the thought process on human rights during an intensive study program," Ripley said. "This type of educational format grows within you."

Outstanding Soldiers & Civilians of the Quarter



Staff Sgt. Michael Rogers,
NCOA Instructor
Instructor of the Quarter



Spc. Gerardo Salazar,
Human Resources
Soldier of the Year 2005



Raquel Etzler,
Command Secretary
Commander's Quality Award



Maj. Luis Rodriguez,
Strategy Instructor
Instructor of the Year 2005



Lee Rials, Public Affairs
Officer
Employee of the Quarter



Sgt. Guadalupe Zavala,
Human Resources
Commander's Quality Award



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Feliciano,
Medic
Post NCO of 2005



Eric Heberlig, Safety
Officer
Post Safety Award



Staff Sgt. George Herrera, Special
Operations Instructor
NCO of the Quarter



Far left: WHINSEC family and friends came together to share a traditional Thanksgiving meal Nov. 23.

Right: Operations Sergeant Staff Sgt. David Leyva shoots his fists to the sky with pride after his team was announced the winner of WHINSEC's Pre-Turkey Day 5-mile trek, Nov. 23.

Photos and design by Jo Kennedy

WHINSEC'S 60 DAYS OF CELEBRATION

From Thanksgiving to January's end, WHINSEC's calendar is sprinkled with fun and festivities of the holiday season, which comes to a close with the Institute's anniversary on 27 Jan. Here are some memorable pictures from this year's celebratory season.

Right: CGSOC Director Maj. Javier Cardona settles his son on the lap of Santa, who was impersonated by Safety Officer Eric Heberlig during the annual children's christmas party Dec. 9.



WHINSEC personnel gather in the Gallery of Liberators to sing 'Happy Birthday' and share cake in celebration of the Institute's fifth anniversary, Jan. 27.



Top: Guests seated at the Command table join in the official toast during WHINSEC's Christmas Ball, which was held at the Columbus Iron Works Dec. 9.

Above: Col. and Mrs. Gilberto Pérez held WH's annual Commandant's New Year's Reception was held Jan. 7 in Fort Benning's Regimental Room at the Officers Club.

The seed sown by the WHINSEC tree

by Lt. Col. Pedro Borjas Espinal
Guest Instructor, Honduras
Strategy Division, WHINSEC
ELH Special Contribution

The Institute makes invaluable contributions in education to the countries of the Hemisphere that send personnel from their armed forces and law-enforcement agencies to take part in courses here at WHINSEC. Latin America maintains professional armies whose personnel are not totally unfamiliar with United States military doctrine, in as much as, to varying degrees, the countries implement these very principles; therefore, it is imperative that we remain current regarding doctrinal changes and shifts, especially since the modern trend of military operations other than war, known today as stability and support operations, requires that we work collectively with other nations. These contemporary operations are joint and combined by nature, and it is vital that the countries participating in them acquire a better knowledge and understanding of each other.

Upon returning to our countries following our interaction in the courses presented by the Institute, Latin American military personnel, both instructors and students, serve as multiplying agents in propagating what they have learned.

This significant consequence, therefore, guarantees that the acquired knowledge contributes to the continual modernization of our military educational systems by incorporating new doctrinal concepts in the teaching institutions for officers, noncommissioned officers, and recruits.

These concepts are acquired and solidified only through their implementation on the battlefield or application in various military operations other than war before becoming doctrine. This phenomenon is only achieved by those armies that continuously face these challenges and strive to maintain global stability in the face of constant threats, as is the case with the United States Army, as seen in its hegemonic role in the world.

The experience acquired through sweat and blood is transmitted to our Latin American brothers through the instruction imparted at the Institute. This educational experience serves to keep us current and in consonance with modern times and, consequently, allows us to be active participants in technological and doctrinal advances with respect to the new concept of modern joint and combined warfare without having to be personally involved in these grueling experiences.

These are the seeds that the Institute has been sowing in its classrooms during its years of existence—seeds that yield fruit over time in the military institutions of Latin America.

This training has bolstered our professionalism, which is based on a solid education in the principles and knowledge of military skills and concepts. Therefore, all the instruction we have received has served to strengthen our military institutions, modernize them, and reform them so they will be prepared to meet the current challenges facing Latin American democracies. Given that these institutions are lasting in nature, undeliberative, apolitical, and defenders of democracy, national sovereignty, and social peace, this training molds us into fervent public servants, honorable and subordinate to civilian authority and national laws.

These are the seeds that the Institute has been sowing in its classrooms during its years of existence—seeds that yield fruit over time in the military institutions of Latin American nations. There is no doubt in my mind that an assessment of the impact of these “seeds” would indicate that our military institutions have reaped a considerable harvest. Every seed that is sown bears fruit. We may not personally observe this phenomenon, but it is a principle of life that the future generations that will bring in the harvest.

Nonetheless, I can unequivocally affirm that the bonds of brotherhood and friendship between our countries have been reinforced and will continue to grow as a result of this educational forum, which daily increases the cultural recompense received by each of us privileged enough to have been able to serve at the Institute either as students or instructors. My reflective views are focused on the mission that all of us who consider ourselves a part of the Institute must undertake to make our nations aware of the invaluable contribution of WHINSEC toward the modernization of our military institutions, and hence, our societies as a whole.





EL HEMISFERICO

Newsletter of the...

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WHINSEC OFFERS NEW EXPERT FIELD MEDICAL BADGE

Instructors of the Combat Service Support Division have taken the initiative to create an Expert Field Medical badge for students of the Combat Medical Assistance Course (TAC-7) upon successful completion of the seven-week intensive course. Based on the U.S. Army's medical badge, the uniform pin consists of the WHINSEC unit insignia superimposed on a stretcher and wings, which signifies the recipient's skill and expertise in medical service, while the torch and flame symbolize leadership education, passion for the profession and responsible action.